United Nations A/61/L.44

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
7 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda Item 69 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

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Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 57/152 of 16 December 2002, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/25 of 5 December 2003, 58/214 and 58/215

06-64843 (E) 081206

of 23 December 2003, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 59/279 of 19 January 2005 and 60/15 of 14 November 2005,

Noting the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005,[1]

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[3] as well as the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster,[4] adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster,[5]

Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Global Consortium for Tsunami-Affected Countries by the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery in April 2006, which brought together national Governments, United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions, consortia of non-governmental organizations and donor Governments with the aim of identifying common priorities and implementing actions towards achieving community-driven development, meeting funding gaps, fostering accountability and transparency, integrating disaster risk reduction, disaster resilience and an effective early warning system that is, inter alia, people-centred, into national development plans, building social and physical infrastructure and supporting microfinance activities,

Welcoming the convening of the final meeting of the Global Consortium on Tsunami Recovery in New York on 15 November 2006, chaired by Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, former President of the United States of America, in his capacity as the United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, aiming to review the progress made and to identify key recovery and reconstruction goals,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the Third International Conference on Early Warning, in Bonn, Germany, from 27 to 29 March 2006,

Stressing the need to develop and implement risk reduction strategies and to integrate them, where appropriate, into national development plans, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations in disasters and reduce the risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources, and stressing also the need for Governments to develop and implement effective national plans for hazard warning systems with a disaster risk reduction approach,

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[1] A/59/669, annex.

[2] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

[4] Common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, annex II).

[5] A/61/87-E/2006/77.

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Welcoming the role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the establishment and implementation of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, given the importance of strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and coordination, which is essential for effective early warning system arrangements for tsunamis,

Noting the communiqué relating to support for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems within the context of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, which supports the inter-operability of systems and free and open real-time data exchange, adopted at the third Earth Observation Summit, in Brussels, on 16 February 2005,

Welcoming the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, and invites Governments, donor countries, relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to consider contributing to the Trust Fund through financial contributions and technical cooperation to support the establishment of the tsunami early warning system in accordance with the needs of the countries of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia so that the Trust Fund contributes to the development of an integrated early warning system based on adequate resources and comprising a network of collaborative centres connected to the global system,

Stressing the need for continued commitment to assist the affected countries and their peoples, particularly the most vulnerable groups, to fully recover from the catastrophic and traumatic effects of the disaster, including their medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and welcoming Government and international assistance measures in this regard,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts by the Governments of affected countries to undertake the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, as well as in enhancing financial transparency and accountability, with respect to the channelling and utilization of resources, including, as appropriate, through the involvement of international public auditors;

2. *Commends* the prompt response, continued support, generous assistance and contributions of the international community, by donor Governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals, in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, which reflect the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation to address the disaster;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the continued work of Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, former President of the United States of America, the United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, and his various initiatives, and encourages his efforts to continue sustaining the political will and to promote the identification of priorities and integration of efforts of the international community, particularly regional and international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction efforts led by the Governments of affected countries;

4. *Encourages* donor communities and international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to strengthen partnerships and to continue to support the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the affected;

5. *Also encourages* the continued effective coordination among the Governments of affected countries, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, international organizations, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and private sectors involved in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in order to ensure the effective implementation of existing joint programmes and to prevent unnecessary duplication and reduce vulnerability to future natural hazards, as well as to adequately respond to the remaining humanitarian needs, where needed;

6. *Stresses* the need for the development of stronger institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the regional, national and local levels, as affirmed in the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[3] and the promotion of public education, awareness and community participation, in order to systematically build resilience to hazards and disasters, as well as reduce the risks and the vulnerability of populations to disasters, including an effective and sustained tsunami warning system, particularly in tsunami-prone countries;

7. *Calls upon* States to fully implement the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable, physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

8. *Stresses* the importance of and the need for regular updating of recovery assessment by the Governments of affected countries, the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions, based on the affected countries' national data and utilizing a consistent methodology, in order to reassess progress and identify gaps and priorities, with the participation of the local community during the recovery and reconstruction phase in order to build back better;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to promote transparency and accountability among donors and recipient countries by means of, inter alia, a unified financial and sectoral information online tracking system, and highlights the importance of timely and accurate information on assessed needs and the sources and uses of funds and the continued support of donors, where needed, for further development of online tracking systems in the affected countries;

10. *Stresses* the need for relevant bodies of the United Nations system, international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector to implement programmes according to assessed needs and agreed priorities of the Governments of tsunami-affected countries and to ensure full transparency and accountability for their programme activities;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of international agencies, donor countries and relevant civil society organizations in supporting the Governments of affected countries to develop national capacity for tsunami warning and response so as to increase public awareness and provide community-based support for disaster risk reduction;

12. *Encourages* international agencies and Governments to enhance and accelerate their support for the development, implementation and maintenance of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the appropriate vehicle for the rapid and timely exchange of alerts and related information required to deliver effective tsunami warnings at the national level;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways to strengthen the rapid response capacities of the international community to provide immediate humanitarian relief, building on existing arrangements and ongoing initiatives;

14. *Encourages* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other humanitarian and relevant development actors to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

15. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, and in implementing recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to integrate a gender perspective and to ensure that women take an active and equal role in all phases of disaster management;

16. *Stresses* the importance of a coordinated process of assessing lessons learned in the international response to a given humanitarian emergency, and notes the efforts of Governments of the affected countries, donor Governments and international organizations in providing reports on evaluations of and lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster;[6]

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2007.

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[6] *The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster: Evaluation of UNICEF's Response (Emergency and Initial Recovery Phase); Survivors of the Tsunami: One Year Later — UNDP Assisting Communities to Build Back Better*; "Towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster" (JUI/REP/2006/5); "Building a land of hope: one year report", Executing Agency of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Aceh and Nias, April 2006; "Joint evaluation of the international response to the Indian Ocean tsunami", synthesis report of the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition, July 2006.